

opinion of us not to think that we are changing our policy on NATO, after the Prime Minister has repeatedly said that this was not the case, just because in Davos the Prime Minister indulged in a discussion in front of a very sophisticated audience which was asking him questions on some of the great issues of our time.

#### DISCUSSIONS IN DAVOS

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, on the basis of what the Prime Minister said in Davos, how can we come to any other conclusion than that questions are being asked concerning our membership in and support of the policies of NATO? In Switzerland the Prime Minister engaged in a public altercation with an American State Department official, discredited NATO policy, and provided a platform for satellite leaders to denounce the West. Can the Acting Prime Minister explain how that has helped the prospect of world peace?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend seems to be saying that indulging in discussions and occasionally disagreeing with friendly states is bad. Members here are asking every day whether the Canadian Government is making sufficiently strong representation to the United States, for example, on a number of protectionist measures which they are now taking. Having a discussion with a friend is not considered to be unfriendly. As a matter of fact it can be considered to be very friendly because you trust that he will understand the case which you are making.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, that kind of discussion goes on every day of the week, every week of the month, and every month of the year, but it goes on in private rather than in public with the head of state of one of our allies.

#### EFFECT ON PEACE INITIATIVE

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** My supplementary question is for the Acting Prime Minister. When the Prime Minister embarked on his peace initiative, his stated intention was to decrease tensions and increase dialogue between East and West. In his remarks in Switzerland last weekend the Prime Minister was highly critical in public of NATO policies. Would the Acting Prime Minister not agree that these indiscreet musings of Canada's Prime Minister have damaged the credibility of his initiative, decreased dialogue, and increased tensions among the NATO nations alone?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the repetition of the question might be helpful to the Hon. Member in anchoring his pre-occupation in the minds of auditors at this point. However, it does not change the truth of the matter which is that there is a good debate to be had as to the usefulness of bringing these matters up in public. There is a debate on that. Obviously the Prime Minister thought that present circumstances commended that he should talk about these things in public. My hon. friend will agree that he has

#### Oral Questions

simply elevated to the public political level discussions that are taking place in public by a number of specialists and non specialists. My hon. friend can ask the same question again, and I will answer in the same way again. Indeed there is a discussion on that, but the Prime Minister has said in Davos that the democratic system could take that kind of discussion.

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#### INDUSTRY

##### REPORT OF GRANTS TO MODERNIZE DOMTAR PLANTS—EFFECT ON WORKERS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. On Friday the Minister of Finance said the following in the House: "As a country we have to work together quite closely—governments, labour, and management—" This is a sentiment that my Party strongly endorses. My question to the Minister concerns the millions of dollars in grants that the federal Government is currently making available to modernize firms in many sectors of the Canadian economy. Is the Government practising this principle of co-operation that the Minister of Finance was talking about on Friday? As a specific example, Domtar is receiving money from the federal Government to modernize its plants in the Minister's riding of Cornwall, and for modernization at Windsor Mills in Quebec. Has the Government taken steps to ensure that the workers who will be affected by these changes have some say in what happens to them?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I must correct the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party. There has been no decision taken with respect to providing funds to Domtar for either the Cornwall Mill or the Windsor Mill. I learned about it at the same time as the Hon. Member did when I read about it in the paper.

##### TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE—PARTICIPATION OF WORKERS IN DECISIONS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, if the decision has not yet been taken, will the Minister assure the House that workers affected by changes in any firm, in any sector of the Canadian economy, will have the right to participate in any decisions concerning timing and other aspects of the introduction of technological change when federal money is being spent?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member refers back to the Throne Speech he will see that the Government of Canada indicated it will be announcing the formation of a policy board made up of labour and business people, co-chaired by the Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress, Mrs. Carr, and Mr. Paul Martin from Canada Steamship Lines. That will be a policy advisors board. I have had discussions with some senior labour people from across the country on whether they